

Valmont TCE

EPA Region 3

Pennsylvania

Hazle Township and
West Hazleton Borough

EPA ID# PA982363970

11th Congressional District

Last Update:

February 2002

Other Names:

Valmont Industrial
Park

Current Site Status

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency put the Valmont TCE site on the National Priorities List of most hazardous waste sites on September 13, 2001. The EPA started a full-scale environmental investigation of the site in January 2002 in order to characterize the contamination. Air samples were collected from basements and first floors in 28 houses. Currently EPA has been sampling sewer lines at the site to investigate possible pathways of contaminants. Also, the EPA requested access from the owner of Chromatex plant to perform investigation inside of the building and to use a part of the parking lot at the plant during the remedial investigation.

Site Description

The Valmont TCE Site consists of the former property of one of the

Chromatex plants in the Valmont Industrial Park on Jaycee Drive near Deer Run Road in Hazle Township and West Hazleton Borough. The site also includes an area of groundwater contamination which extends from the plant to the northeast in the area of Twin Oaks Road, Bent Pine Road/Trail, Fawn Drive and Dear Run Road. The site was initially developed by CAN DO, Inc. in 1963 and has changed hands several times since then. From 1978 until March 2001 the plant was used by Chromatex (now owned by CULP, Inc.) for upholstery fabric manufacturing. The building is now vacant for sale or lease. The groundwater is contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE) resulting from a spill at the Chromatex plant. Residential wells in the area are also contaminated with TCE, but those homes have been hooked up to the public water supply.

Site Responsibility


This site is the responsibility of the federal government and any potentially responsible parties.

NPL Listing History

The site was proposed to the National Priorities List on June 14, 2001 and was formally added to the list on September 13, 2001.

Threats and Contaminants

Contamination was found in the groundwater at the site and several residential wells in the area in 1987, including high levels of trichloroethylene.

Contaminant descriptions and associated risk factors are available on the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, an arm of the CDC, web site at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hazdat.html> 

Cleanup Progress

When notified of the contaminated wells, the EPA took immediate action to remove the risk by shutting down the wells and supplying residents with bottled water. Subsequently, these homes were connected to a public water supply, thereby eliminating the risk of drinking contaminated well water. The site will receive a long-term remedial cleanup to address the remaining contaminated

groundwater. Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study started in January 2002. The first round of air samples was performed in February 2002.

Contacts

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Detailed public files (Administrative Record) on EPA's actions and decisions for this site can be examined at the following locations:

James C. Reinmiller, Director
Hazleton Area Public Library
55 N. Church Street
Hazleton, PA 18201
570-454-2961

Mayor Carl Puschauer
12 S. 4th Street
W. Hazelton, PA 18202
570-455-3695